

349—1.10 (28) Iowa empowerment funds.

1.10(1) Purpose. The purpose of Iowa empowerment funds is to:

- a. Encourage early intellectual stimulation of very young children;
- b. Increase the basic skill levels of students entering school;
- c. Increase the health status of children;
- d. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect;
- e. Increase a family's involvement with the family's children; and
- f. Increase the quality and accessibility of child care and preschool.

1.10(2) Criteria for the use of early childhood funds. Use of early childhood funds is defined in department of human services 441—Chapter 169, Iowa Administrative Code.

1.10(3) Criteria for school ready funds. School ready funds may be provided according to the community plan following community assessment of assets, resources and needs and identification of priorities.

a. Services in a community plan may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Child development services.
- (2) Child care services.
- (3) Child care provider training on a child's early learning experience.
- (4) Children's health and safety.
- (5) Family support services and parent education.
- (6) Preschool programming support services.

b. Up to 3 percent of annual school ready funds may be used by the community board for administrative costs and other implementation expenses.

c. Empowerment areas shall commit approximately 60 percent of the remainder of school ready funds to family support services and parent education programs targeted to families with children who are prenatal through five years of age based upon a local community needs assessment.

d. The Iowa board will incorporate statewide quality standards and results indicators adopted by other boards and commissions into the Iowa board's funding requirements for investments in early care, education, health, and human service.

e. Eligibility to receive school ready funds shall be limited to designated empowerment areas.

f. School ready funds may be adjusted for other federal and state grant moneys received by the empowerment area.

g. Distribution of school ready funds shall be in accordance with directives in the current legislative appropriation of these funds.

1.10(4) Criteria for first years first funds. Use of first years first funds is defined in department of management 541—Chapter 13, Iowa Administrative Code. [See ARC 7640B, IAB 3/25/09.]

1.10(5) Method for carryforward of funds. The amount of school ready children grant funding the Iowa empowerment board may carry forward annually shall not exceed 20 percent. School ready children grant funds received by a community empowerment board in a fiscal year shall be carried forward to the following fiscal year. However, any funds that remain unencumbered and unobligated at the end of the fiscal year in excess of 20 percent of the funds received in a fiscal year shall be subtracted by the Iowa empowerment board from the allocation to the community empowerment board for the following fiscal year.